MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Airframe and engines of only one type of trainer aircraft of the IAF are sent abroad for repairs and overhaul.

(b) The annual expenditure incurred on the repairs and overhaul of the engines of these trainer aircraft over the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Amount in Lakhs (Rs.)
1986	82.26
1987	102.68
1988	177.41

(c) The increase in expenditure due to escalation in rates of repair has been kept within 7 per cent annually.

(d) and (e) The possibility of setting up overhaul facilities for this trainer aircraft in India was examined and the proposal was dropped in 1987 it was not considered to be economical.

Supply of ration to card holders of army Staff

1643. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 655 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 1989 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the supply of all kinds of cereals etc. in the dry ration to the families of ration card holders of Army Staff by DID on cash payment has still not been normalised;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that fresh ration, *viz*, mutton, eggs; chicken etc. is being sold in black market by the officers and the ration card holders are denied the same; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to remove the difficulties being faced by the families of the Army personnel posted at far-flung areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (d) The supply position of dry rations to ration card holders is generally normal. Local restrictions are sometimes placed on the issue of rice and sugar only, if the stock position so requires. Steps as necessary are then taken to replenish stocks.

Ration Card holders are not entitled to fresh rations. The question of their being denied issues of mutton, eggs, chicken etc. because of illicit sale of fresh rations by officers does not, therefore, arise.

Setting up of electronic telephone exchanges

1644. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more Electronic Telephone Exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such exchanges likely to be set up during the next three years, yearwise;

(c) funds allocated for this purpose;

(d) the present number of Electronic and non-Electronic Telephone Exchanges in the country in each State; and

(e) by when all Telephone Exchanges are likely to be converted into Electronic Exchanges including in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)	1989-90	1186
	1990-91	1960
	1991-92	2296
	TOTAL	5442

(c) About Rs. 2445 crores are required for this purpose.

(d) As on 31-3-1989.